## **United States Department of Agriculture**



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## MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. MA-266

TO: All holders of Field Office Technical Guide, Section III and Section IV

<u>Purpose</u>. This notice transmits an update of Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) criteria and updated Conservation Practice documents.

## **Explanation**

Amherst, MA 01002

<u>Updated Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) Criteria.</u> The following Conservation Activity Plan criteria have been updated:

Code 124 - Agricultural Energy Management (Landscape) CAP Criteria.

**Updated Conservation Practice Documents.** The following documents have been updated:

- Cover Crop (Code 340). The specification guide for this practice has been split into 2 documents, one for establishment and one for termination. The establishment criteria remain unchanged. The criteria for the termination of cover crops that meets USDA Risk Management Agency requirements for crop insurance policy holders have been updated.
- Firebreak (Code 394). The conservation practice standard, statement of work, and jobsheet have been updated.
- Fishpond Management (Code 399). The conservation practice standard and statement of work have been updated.
- Access Control (Code 472). A jobsheet applicable to forested land uses has been created.
- <u>Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612).</u> The conservation practice standard, statement of work, and jobsheet have been updated.
- Tree/Shrub Pruning (Code 660). The jobsheet has been updated with new guidance.
- **Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666).** A jobsheet providing guidance on "Crop Tree Release" has been created.

<u>Filing Instructions</u>. Insert this notice in front of Section I of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). File the updated CAP criteria in Section III and updated conservation practice documents in Section IV of the FOTG.

These documents have been posted to the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).

Barbara P. Miller

**Acting State Conservationist** 

Barbara P. Helle

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## Attachments

DIST: All Employees

S.O. Official MA FOTG

Greg Watson, Commissioner, MDAR

Gerard Kennedy, Director, Conservation and Technical Assistance, MDAR